AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits system identification (SID) parameters to mobile stations,~~ comprising:

storing a system identification ~~SID~~ that identifies a home service provider for a ~~the~~ mobile station;

identifying a plurality of system identifications ~~SIDs~~ having a common spatial characteristic;

storing the identified plurality of system identifications ~~SIDs~~ in a memory that is accessible by a mobile station;

comparing a system identification ~~SID~~ received from a wireless service provider to the stored plurality of system identifications ~~SIDs~~; and

upon any one of the plurality of stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~ matching the received system identification ~~SID~~, declaring the wireless service provider as being a home service provider for the mobile station.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the common spatial characteristic is comprised of a geographical area that corresponds to a postal zone.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the common spatial characteristic is comprised of a geographical area that corresponds to a zip code.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the steps of identifying, storing, comparing and declaring are executed only if the mobile station is classified as being in a prepaid mode of operation.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein if none of the plurality of stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~ matches the received system identification ~~SID~~, further comprising comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ to other stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~, including at least one of a partner system identification ~~SID~~, a favored system identification ~~SID~~ and a forbidden system identification ~~SID~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein if none of the plurality of stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~ matches the received system identification ~~SID~~, further comprising comparing a received system operator code ~~(SOC)~~ to stored system operator codes ~~SOCs~~, including at least one of a partner system operator code ~~SOC~~, a favored system operator code ~~SOC~~ and a forbidden system operator code ~~SOC~~and if a match is found between the received system operator code and one of the partner and favored system operator codes, declaring a wireless service provider corresponding to the matched one of the partner and favored system operator codes to be the home service provider.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, and further comprising displaying a message to a user for informing the user that the user is operating in a prepaid mode with one of a plurality of system providers having system identifications ~~SIDs~~ that are associated with a geographical area that is the user's home geographical area.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of comparing includes a preliminary step of comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ to the stored system identification ~~SID~~ that identifies the home service provider for the mobile station, and upon a match declaring the service provider to be the home service provider, and inhibiting the execution of the step of comparing the system identification ~~SID~~ received from a wireless service provider to the stored plurality of system identifications ~~SIDs~~.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the common spatial characteristic is comprised of a geographical area that is defined by information received from a customer of a prepaid service provider.

10. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system of a type that transmits system

identification ~~(SID)~~ parameters to mobile stations, comprising in mobile stations associated with a prepaid service provider at least one memory storing a system identification ~~SID~~ that identifies a home service provider for the mobile station and a list containing a plurality of other system identifications ~~SIDs~~ having a common spatial characteristic, the mobile station comprising a processor that is coupled to the at least one memory and that is responsive to a received system identification ~~SID~~ for comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ to the system identifications ~~SIDs~~ in the list of system identifications ~~SIDs~~ and, upon any one of the plurality of system identifications ~~SIDs~~ matching the received system identification ~~SID~~, declaring a wireless service provider that transmitted the system identification ~~SID~~ as being the home service provider for the mobile station.

11. (Previously Amended) A system as in claim 10, wherein the common spatial characteristic is comprised of a postal zone.

12. (Original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the common spatial characteristic is comprised of a geographical area that is defined by information received from a customer of the prepaid service provider.

13. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 10, wherein if none of the plurality of other system identifications ~~SIDs~~ matches the received system identification ~~SID~~, the processor compares the received system identification ~~SID~~ to other stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~ found in an intelligent roaming data base ~~(IRDB)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 10, wherein if none of the plurality of other SIDs matches the received system identification ~~SID~~, the processor compares a received system operator code ~~(SOC)~~ to stored system operator codes ~~SOCs~~ found in an intelligent roaming data base ~~(IRDB)~~ and if a match is found between the received system operator code and one of the stored system operator codes, declaring a wireless service provider corresponding to the matched one of the stored system operator codes to be the home service provider.

15. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 10, and further comprising a display for displaying a message to a user for informing the user that the user is operating in a prepaid mode

with one of a plurality of system providers having system identifications ~~SIDs~~ that are associated with a geographical area that is the user's home geographical area.

16. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 10, wherein the processor first compares the received system identification ~~SID~~ to the stored system identification ~~SID~~ that identifies the home service provider for the mobile station, and upon a match declares the service provider to be the home service provider, and inhibits comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ with the list of other system identifications ~~SIDs~~.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~A mobile station~~, comprising:

a controller;

a wireless transceiver; and

at least one memory, the at least one memory comprising a location for storing a home system identification ~~SID~~ and other locations configured to store ~~for storing~~ a plurality of cousin system identifications ~~SIDs~~, wherein ~~a SID received through~~ said wireless controller is configured to declare a system identification received through said wireless controller ~~is declared by said controller~~ to be a home service provider if the received system identification ~~SID~~ matches the stored home system identification ~~SID~~ or any one of the plurality of stored cousin system identifications ~~SIDs~~, wherein the at least one memory is configured to store the cousin system identifications ~~SIDs are stored into said at least one memory~~ under the direction of a prepaid service provider, and the cousin system identifications correspond to system identifications ~~SIDs~~ associated with one or more service providers that service a predetermined geographical area that is defined to be a non-roaming area of a customer of the prepaid service provider, wherein the home system identification ~~SID~~ is configured to be stored in at least one memory without the direction of a prepaid service provider.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~A mobile station~~ as in claim 17, wherein the cousin system identifications ~~SIDs~~ are configured to be stored in a memory that is detachable from said

apparatus ~~mobile station~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits system identification (SID) parameters to prepaid mobile stations,~~ comprising:

storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a first system identification ~~SID~~ that identifies a home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~;

comparing a system identification ~~SID~~ received from a wireless service provider to the first system identification ~~SID~~ and upon the received system identification ~~SID~~ matching the first system identification ~~SID~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be a home category service provider for the mobile station; and

if the received system identification ~~SID~~ does not match the first system identification ~~SID~~, comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ to the plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~ and upon the received system identification ~~SID~~ matching any one of the plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be the home category service provider for the mobile station, wherein if the received system identification ~~SID~~ does not match any of the second system identifications ~~SIDs~~, comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ to system identifications ~~SIDs~~ stored in an intelligent roaming data base ~~(IRDB)~~.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits system identification (SID) parameters to prepaid mobile stations,~~ comprising:

storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a first system identification ~~SID~~ that identifies a home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~;

comparing a system identification ~~SID~~ received from a wireless service provider to the plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~ and upon the received system identification ~~SID~~ matching

any one of the plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be a home category service provider for the mobile station; and

if the received system identification ~~SID~~ does not match any one of the plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~, comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ to the first system identification ~~SID~~ and upon the received system identification ~~SID~~ matching the first system identification ~~SID~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be the home category service provider for the mobile station.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 22, wherein if the received system identification ~~SID~~ does not match the first system identification ~~SID~~, comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ to system identifications ~~SIDs~~ stored in an intelligent roaming data base system identification ~~SID~~.

24. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits system identification (SID) and system operator code (SOC) parameters to prepaid mobile stations,~~ comprising:

storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a system operator code ~~SOC~~ that identifies a home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of system identifications ~~SIDs~~;

comparing a system operator code ~~SOC~~ received from a wireless service provider to the stored system operator code ~~SOC~~ and upon the received system operator code ~~SOC~~ matching the stored system operator code ~~SOC~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be a home category service provider for the mobile station; and

if the received system operator code ~~SOC~~ does not match the stored system operator code ~~SOC~~, comparing a related received system identification ~~SID~~ to the plurality of stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~ and upon the received system identification ~~SID~~ matching any one of the plurality of second system identifications ~~SIDs~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be the home category service provider for the mobile station.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 24, wherein if the received system identification ~~SID~~ does not match any of the second system identifications ~~SIDs~~, comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ or system operator code ~~SOC~~ to system identifications ~~SIDs~~ or system operator codes ~~SOCs~~ stored in an intelligent roaming data base ~~(IRDB)~~.

26. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for operating a wireless communication system of a type that transmits system identification (SID) and system operator code (SOC) parameters to prepaid mobile stations,~~ comprising:

storing, in at least one memory that is accessible by a mobile station, a system operator code ~~SOC~~ that identifies a home service provider for the mobile station and a plurality of system identifications ~~SIDs~~;

comparing a system identification ~~SID~~ received from a wireless service provider to the plurality of stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~ and upon the received system identification ~~SID~~ matching any one of the plurality of stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be a home category service provider for the mobile station; and

if the received system identification ~~SID~~ does not match any one of the plurality of stored system identifications ~~SIDs~~, comparing a received system operator code ~~SOC~~ to the stored system operator code ~~SOC~~ and upon the received system operator code ~~SOC~~ matching the stored system operator code ~~SOC~~, declaring the wireless service provider to be the home category service provider for the mobile station.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 26, wherein if the received system operator code ~~SOC~~ does not match the stored system operator code ~~SOC~~, comparing the received system identification ~~SID~~ or system operator code ~~SOC~~ to system identifications ~~SIDs~~ or system operator codes ~~SOCs~~ stored in an intelligent roaming data base ~~(IRDB)~~.

28. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 10, wherein the at least one memory is removable from the mobile station.

29. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 10, wherein the mobile station operates in a postpaid mode.

30. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 10, wherein the mobile station has both postpaid and prepaid modes.

31. (New) An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein the wireless controller is further configured to compare a received system operator code to stored system operator codes, including at least one of a partner system operator code, a favored system operator code and a forbidden system operator code if the wireless controller does not find a match for the received system identification with any of the plurality of stored system identifications, where if the wireless controller finds a match with the received system operator code and one of the partner system operator code and the favored system operator code, then declaring the wireless service provider corresponding to the matched one of the partner system operator code and the favored system operator code to be the home service provider.

32. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a wireless controller;

a wireless transceiver controlled by the wireless controller; and

at least one memory, the at least one memory comprising a location for storing a system identification that identifies a home service provider for the apparatus,

wherein said wireless controller is configured to identify a plurality of system identifications having a common spatial characteristic; configured to store the identified plurality of system identifications having the common spatial characteristic in the at least one memory; configured to compare a system identification received from a wireless service provider to the stored plurality of system identifications; and, upon any one of the plurality of stored system identifications matching the received system identification, configured to declare the corresponding wireless service provider as being a home service provider for the apparatus.